



The Fire Service News



New Hampshire Fire Academy



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A Service of New Hampshire Division of Fire Standards & Training

"Training on the Leading Edge"

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CPSC, Central Sprinkler Recall Omega Fire Sprinklers; Settle Lawsuit

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and Central Sprinkler announced today the nationwide recall of approximately 8.4 million Omega brand fire sprinklers manufactured since 1982 by Central Sprinkler Corp. and its subsidiary, Central Sprinkler Co., of Lansdale, PA.

CPSC alleges that Omegas are defective and could likely fail in a fire. This recall announcement follows the resolution of the lawsuit filed by the Commission staff against these companies on March 3, 1998.

CPSC alleges that, on average, between 30 and 40 percent of Omegas removed from various locations across the country for testing failed to activate as they should. In some buildings, all Omegas tested failed to activate. CPSC is warning consumers that they are at risk of bodily injury or death and should have Omegas replaced as soon as possible. CPSC is urging consumers to take immediate action to determine whether the buildings where they live and work are equipped with Omegas, and, if so, to call the Omega Sprinkler Recall Hotline to participate in the recall. Properly functioning fire sprinklers save lives when a fire occurs. With the Omega sprinklers, this line of defense may not be there when it is needed most.

CPSC has received reports of Omega sprinklers not functioning in 17 fires. At least four persons suffered injuries, including burns and

smoke inhalation. Over \$4.3 million in property damage has been reported. The fires occurred between 1990 and the present in Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, and Texas. In some cases, the sprinkler directly above the fire failed to operate.

Omega fire sprinklers are installed in homes, schools, hospitals, dormitories, nursing homes, prisons, offices, hotels and other buildings as well as federal buildings, including the Smithsonian Museums and the U.S. Capitol, which house many of the country's historical artifacts. Omegas have been or are being removed from many state and federal buildings, including the White House. As part of the settlement agreement, Central has asked Underwriters Laboratories to withdraw its listing of approval for all Omega brand fire sprinklers.

Consumers themselves should be able to determine whether their homes or other buildings are equipped with Omega fire sprinklers. On most models, consumers will be able to see three flat round metal disks stacked one above the other with a small space between each disk. Consumers should not attempt to unscrew the sprinkler or shut down their sprinkler system to determine if they have Omegas. Central will send consumers a packet of information to help them identify the sprinklers involved.

Continued on Page 6

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS AVAILABLE AT NO CHARGE TO NEW HAMPSHIRE FIREFIGHTERS

Subscriptions to the bi-monthly Newsletter are available to NH Firefighters at no charge simply by completing the request below.

Name: _____

S.S. # _____ D.O.B. _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Primary Fire Dept. Affiliation: Full Time Career (over \$10,000 Annually?): Yes () No ()

Primary Fire Department: _____

Rank: _____

Secondary Fire Department: _____ Rank: _____

Highest Level of Education: High School () College 2 yr. () College 4 yrs. () Post Grad. ()

Levels of Certification:

FF I () FF Career () FF 2 () FF 3 () D/O () 1st Resp. () EMT () B () A () I ()

Other: _____

EMS: _____

State Instructor: Yes () No () If yes, certified courses taught in the last year:

Title	Location	Cref # (if available)	Dates	Hours

Submit Completed Subscription Request Forms To:

Newsletter Request
New Hampshire Fire Academy
10 Hazen Drive
Concord NH 03305

Calendar of Events

Tues./Wed.	Nov. 3/4	Emergency Response to Terrorism-Basic Concepts	Claremont
Wed.	Nov. 4	NH Fire Standards & Training Commission Meeting	NHFA
Wed.	Nov. 4	1998 Academy Awards	NHFA
Sat./Sun. ...	Nov. 14/15	Basic Life Support and Haz-Mat Response	NHFA
Mon./Sun. .	Nov. 16/22	Driver/Operator - All Vehicle Practicals	Pease
Wed./Thurs.	Nov. 18/19	Emergency Response to Terrorism - Basic Concepts	Hampton
Wed.	Dec. 2	NH Fire Standards & Training Commission Meeting	NHFA
Tues.	Dec. 15	Deadline - NHFA Firefighter I (A&B) Registration	NHFA
Sat.	Jan. 6, 1999	Firefighter I (A&B) 2 Saturdays/Month Begins	NHFA

New Hampshire Fire Academy *presents* **Firefighter I (Sections A & B)**

WHEN: January 6, 1999 Orientation
Two Saturdays Each Month
January 16, 1999 to February 2, 2000

TIME: 08:00 - 16:30

WHERE: New Hampshire Fire Academy
222 Sheep Davis Road (Route 106)
Concord, N.H. 03301

COST: \$450.00

PREREQUISITES: 18 years of age at the time of registration.

REGISTRATION: NHFA General Admissions Application

SPECIAL NOTES: Cost includes all course materials and applies to members of New Hampshire municipal fire departments. Cost for a student who is not a member of a New Hampshire municipal fire department is \$655.00. The Division applies a screening criteria to all applications, which accepts all members of New Hampshire municipal fire departments prior to consideration of other applicants.

Maximum class size is 24 students; minimums apply. Deadline for applications is December 15, 1998.

A Year in the Ife Photo Contest

Watch for details in the monthly mailing.

Deadline: September 1, 1999

MDA

Firefighter Ski Muster

WHERE: Loon Mtn

WHEN: January 17th

COST: \$125.00 Per Team

Trophies, Prizes, & Discounts For Family Members

Sponsored By Manchester Professional
Firefighter Local 856

Contact MDA For More Information

FIRE SAFETY NEWS SOURCE

Heart Attacks Leading Cause Of On-Duty U.S. Firefighter Fatalities In 1997; Total Deaths Fall Below 100 For Third Consecutive Year

Quincy, MA., May 18, 1998 — Stress and overexertion usually resulting in heart attacks continued to be the leading cause of fatal injury for on-duty U.S. firefighters in 1997, with 38 deaths. This was the fourth year in the last six that the number of heart attack deaths was below 40; however, heart attack deaths typically account for approximately half of the deaths each year, according to a report by the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

NFPA's report also shows that the total number of on-duty firefighter deaths in the U.S. fell below 100 for the third consecutive year, with 94 deaths. That number represents a decrease of one death from 1996, and the fifth time in the last six years that the total has been below 100.

"NFPA's analysis pinpoints the places we need to work harder to improve firefighters' health and safety, and helps us target effective ways to reduce the number of men and women who lose their lives while on duty. Over the past two decades, we've engineered solutions for many of the problems that previously resulted in firefighter injuries and deaths, including improvements in fire apparatus and firefighting protective equipment. Nevertheless, these successes cannot deter us from continuing to look at what else we can do to prevent further deaths," says Rita Fahy, NFPA manager of fire data bases and systems and a co-author of the report.

The second leading cause of fatalities was involvement in motor vehicle incidents, with 18 killed in motor vehicle crashes and four struck by vehicles. Twelve of the 18 firefighters killed in motor vehicle collisions or rollovers were responding to alarms when the crashes occurred. Five of the 12 were either driving or were passengers in personal vehicles. The other seven were killed in six crashes involving fire department apparatus. The most commonly reported factors in these road crashes were speeding (including driving too fast for road conditions), failure to use seatbelts, and failure to yield at intersections.

"Deaths involving overexertion and motor vehicle crashes are often preventable, because they are largely due to certain detrimental behaviors. It's critical that fire department and individual firefighters begin to more seriously address the fitness issues impact-

ing the heart attack problem and the apparent failure by firefighters to obey the rules of the road," says Gary Tokle, a former fire chief and NFPA's assistant vice president for public fire protection.

"To prevent further tragedies, improvements in individual health and fitness must be a priority, along with the proper screening of applicants to the fire service," Mr. Tokle says. He adds that implementing incident command systems, which provide structure and coordination for the management of emergency incident operations, and firefighter accountability systems, which provide for the tracking and inventory of all members operating at an emergency, could also help prevent further firefighter deaths. To avoid apparatus crashes, he recommends better training and education for motor vehicle operators.

NFPA's firefighter fatality report findings also show that four firefighters died as a result of set or suspicious fires, and one firefighter died in conjunction with a malicious false alarm. Of the 94 firefighters who died while on duty in 1997, 86 were members of local career and volunteer fire departments, six were contractors to state and federal forestry agencies, one was a seasonal employee of a state forestry agency and one was a full-time employee of a federal forestry agency. Thirty of the local firefighters were career firefighters and 56 were volunteers.

NFPA has tracked and analyzed U.S. on-duty firefighter fatalities for more than 20 years, and its annual firefighter fatality report has been used throughout the nation as an informational tool to reduce the number of firefighter injuries and deaths. The report is updated annually, and appears in its entirety in the July/August issue of NFPA's member magazine, NFPA Journal.

The National Fire Protection Association has led the way to fire safety since 1896. The mission of the international nonprofit organization is to reduce the burden of fire on the quality of life by advocating scientifically based consensus codes and standards, research, and education for fire and related safety issues. The association publishes a wide variety of educational and safety materials, including the National Fire Codes, and is developer of the Risk Watch comprehensive injury prevention curriculum and the Learn Not to Burn fire safety curriculum.

NFPA headquarters is in Quincy, MA., USA. Visit the Public Affairs Media Access page on NFPA's website at <http://www.nfa.org>.

New Hampshire Fire Standards & Training Commission Members

REPRESENTING:

Commissioner of Education

Dr. G. William Porter

Attorney General

Stephen Judge

Forest Protection - Chief

Robert (Bud) D. Nelson

NH Fire Chiefs Association - Career

Brian J. Thibeault

NH Fire Chiefs Association - Volunteer

Harold Harbour

Professional Firefighters of NH - IAFF

David Duquette

Fire Instructors & Officers

Association of NH

Dr. Henry W. Munroe

Federation of Fire Mutual Aids

Association

John S. Marechal

NH State Firemen's Association

Paul E. Fortier

Insurance Industry of NH

Phillip F. Frazier

NH Municipal Association

Peter Russell

NH Permanent Firemen's Association

Karl J. Berardi

NH Fire Prevention Society

Charles L. Chalk

Non-Voting Members:

Division of Fire Standards &

Training - Director

Richard A. Mason

Division of Fire Safety - Director

(State Fire Marshal)

Donald P. Bliss

To: Director Earl Sweeney

From: John Stephen, Assistant Commissioner
New Hampshire Department of Safety

Re: EMT confidentially

Earl, this is a general FYI to all law enforcement. It is a very important matter that I thought they should know about. Could you please put this short note into the next edition of Articulate Suspicion?

In the past, many police departments have had problems obtaining reports from emergency medical technicians and/or fire officials when investigating crimes, such as DWI and negligent homicide. These medical care providers were concerned with their liability in releasing these reports because of the Department of Health and Human Services' Administrative Rule He-P 1202.11, which prohibited the dissemination of "patient records." This rule was in direct conflict with the Supreme Court holding of *State v. LaRoche*, 122 N.H. 231 (1982), and did not have the support of any enabling legislation. Nevertheless, some departments continued to have problems in obtaining these records. In order to reconcile this conflict, we approached H&HS and asked them to repeal the rule.

Effective March 4, 1998, H&HS did in fact repeal the confidentiality section of the Administrative Rules. Thus, no longer should any law enforcement officer have difficulty obtaining such reports. The law is clear: reports generated by an EMT or other medical care provider, relating to communications and relations with a patient not under the direct supervision of a physician, are not privileged. They may be obtained by law enforcement. If you have any questions pertaining to this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me at 271-2559.

NEW NH FIRE ACADEMY DISTRICT SECRETARY ASSIGNMENTS

Effective November 1, 1998, the new District Secretary assignments are:

Dale Boyd for Districts 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 which covers Hillsborough, Cheshire, Belknap, Carroll, Grafton, and Coos Counties.

Lin Turner for Districts 1, 4, 5, and 6 which covers Rockingham, Sullivan, Merrimack, and Strafford Counties.

Stefanie Burke for District 12 which covers NH Fire Academy-sponsored programs held at the Academy.

For any information about your student record or programs in your District, please contact the appropriate District Secretary at 271-2661 or 800-371-4503.

CPSC Urges Seasonal Furnace Inspection, Replacement of Recalled Vent Pipes to Prevent CO Poisonings

Washington, D.C. — As the home heating season approaches, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) urges consumers to have a professional inspection of all fuel-burning appliances — including furnaces, stoves, fireplaces, clothes dryers and space heaters — to detect deadly carbon monoxide (CO) leaks.

These appliances burn fuels — typically gas, both natural and liquefied petroleum; kerosene; oil; coal; and wood. Under certain conditions, these appliances can produce deadly CO, but with proper installation and maintenance, are safe to use.

CO is a colorless, odorless gas produced by burning any fuel. The initial symptoms of CO poisoning are similar to flu, and include headache, fatigue, shortness of breath, nausea and dizziness. Exposure to high levels of CO can cause death.

“CO poisoning associated with using fuel-burning appliances kills more than 200 people each year and sends about 10,000 to hospital emergency rooms for treatment,” said CPSC Chairman Ann Brown.

CPSC recommends the yearly, professional inspection include checking chimneys, flues and vents for leakage and blockage by creosote and debris. Leakage through cracks or holes could cause black stains on the outside of the chimney or flue. These stains can mean that pollutants are leaking into the house. Also, have all vents to furnaces, water heaters, boilers and other fuel-burning appliances checked to make sure they are not loose or disconnected.

Make sure your appliances are inspected for adequate ventilation. A supply of fresh air is important to help carry pollut-

ants up the chimney, stovepipe or flue, and is necessary for the complete combustion of any fuel. Never block ventilation air openings.

CPSC recommends that every home should have at least one CO detector that meets the requirements of the most recent Underwriters Laboratories 2034 standard or International Approval Services 6-96 standard.

Consumers should also have the vent pipes on their heating systems inspected. Earlier this year, virtually the entire furnace and boiler industry together with the manufacturers of high-temperature plastic vent (HTPV) pipes joined with CPSC to announce a vent pipe corrective action program. The program's purpose is to replace, free of charge, an estimated 250,000 HTPV pipe systems attached to gas or propane furnaces or boilers in consumers' homes. The HTPV pipes could crack or separate at the joints and leak CO.

Consumers can check the vent pipes attached to their natural gas or propane furnaces or boilers to determine if they are part of this recall. They can be identified as follows: the vent pipes are plastic; the vent pipes are colored gray or black; the vent pipes have the names “Plexvent”, “Plecvent II” or “Ultravent” stamped on the vent pipe or printed on stickers placed on pieces used to connect the vent pipes together. Consumers should also check the location of these vent pipes. For furnaces, only HTPV systems that have vent pipes that go through the sidewalls of structures (horizontal systems) are subject to this program. For boilers, all HTPV systems are subject to this program. Other plastics vent pipes, such as white PVC or CPVC, are not involved in this program.

Continued from Page 1

The recall of the Omega sprinklers includes models referred to or marked as follows: C1 (or C-1), C1A (or C-1A), C-1A PRO (or C1-A PRO, C1- PRO QR, EC-20, EC-20A, R-1, R-1A, R-1M, Flow Control (FC, Flow Control-FC), Protector-M or M Protector (Upright, Pendent, Sidewall, Sidewall EC), HEC-12, EC-12 RES, HEC-12 EC, HEC-12 EC PRO, HEC-12 ID, HEC-12 PRO, HEC-12 PRO QR, HEC-20, Prohibitor QR and AC.

Central is offering consumers free replacement glass bulb fire sprinklers and reimbursement toward the cost of having Omega sprinklers removed and replaced. CPSC routinely requires companies to pay the full costs associated with recalls. In this case, Central's reported financial condition reveals that its ability to pay the cost of replacing the Omega sprinklers is limited.

Consumers are urged to call the Omega Sprinkler Recall Hotline, available 24 hours a day, at 800-896-5685 or to access the Omega recall website at Omegarecall.com to participate in the recall.

For consumers to get any monetary reimbursement for installation costs, they must submit a proof of claim and release to Central postmarked by August 1, 1999. Consumers are urged to take immediate action and call today. Since Omegas may not operate in a fire, it is particularly important that consumers have at least one fully operations smoke detector on every floor of their home, especially near bedrooms. To ensure that the detector's batteries are working, test the detector every month. Consumers also should have a well-defined and rehearsed escape plan and an alternate escape plan in the event of a fire. To obtain a free copy of “Your Home Fire Safety Checklist,” visit CPSC's web site at www.cpsc.gov or write to CPSC, Washington, DC 20207.

NUMBER OF 1997 U.S. FIRE FATALITIES DROPS BY 18.8%

REPRESENTS LOWEST FIRE DEATH RATE IN 20 YEARS

Quincy, MA, August 20, 1998—At a total of 4,050 fatalities, 1997's U.S. fire death toll was the lowest in the last 20 years. According to a report released today by the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), this dramatic 18.8% decline follows a two-year increase in the U.S. fire death toll. In light of these recent fluctuations, NFPA's excitement about its latest findings is mixed with caution.

"We're greatly pleased that the total number of fire deaths dropped so much in 1997. It means that nearly one thousand lives were saved compared to the death tolls in 1995-1996. However, our enthusiasm is tempered by the fact that we have experienced one-year spikes or dips in the past that were reversed a year later," says Dr. John Hall, NFPA's assistant vice president of fire analysis and research. "Our hope is that last year's reduction will be sustained, but that remains to be seen." Statistics show a general decline in the number of U.S. fire deaths over the last two decades.

Although the number of fire deaths in the home also dropped considerably, by 17.7% to a total of 3,360 in 1997, the percentage of fire fatalities occurring in the home has increased for the third consecutive year. Home fire deaths now account for 85% of all U.S. fire deaths. "It's ironic that most people feel safest from fire in their own homes when, in reality, that's where most fire deaths occur, fire death risks are highest, and relative progress in reducing fire deaths has been slowest," says Dr. Hall. Home fires also resulted in nearly \$4.4 billion in direct property damage.

According to NFPA's report, declines were reflected in many aspects of the 1997 fire loss picture: the 1,795,000 fires attended by public fire departments represent a decrease of 9.1% from the year before, and property damage dropped by 0.4% to an estimated \$8.5 billion, even when adjusted for inflation. Incendiary and suspicious structure fires decreased by 8.2% to 78,500, and the 445 deaths resulting from those fires represent a decrease of 14.4% from 1996. In addition, 23,750 civilians were reportedly injured in all fires, which represents a 7.1% decrease from the year before. (This estimate is on the low side, however, due to under-reporting of civilian injuries to the fire service.)

Even with decreased 1997's fire rates, the overall U.S. fire problem remains considerable, resulting in billions of dollars of

property damage, thousands of lost lives and tens of thousands of injuries each year. "I don't want to underplay the improvements reflected in last year's fire loss numbers, since they were unquestionably in the right direction," concludes Dr. Hall. "At the same time, more than 4,000 people died in fires last year. That's still way too many lives lost. We can and must do better still."

The full findings of NFPA's report, published in the September/October 1998 issue of the organization's magazine NFPA Journal, address several major strategies to reduce the overall fire death toll. These include more widespread public fire safety and prevention education; increased use, testing and maintenance of smoke alarms, and practicing and developing home fire escape plans; much greater use of residential fire sprinkler systems; creation of more fire-safe home products; and increased attention to the needs of high-risk groups, such as the young, older adults and low income communities.

The following statistics are also included in NFPA's report:

- Every 18 seconds, a fire department responds to a fire somewhere in the U.S.
- Nationwide, there was a fire death every 130 minutes and a civilian injury every 22 minutes.
- The South had the highest fire incident rate per thousand population.
- The South and the Northeast shared the highest civilian death rate (17.5 deaths per million population).
- Three hundred ninety-seven thousand (397,000) vehicle fires occurred in 1997.

The National Fire Protection Association has led the way to fire safety since 1896. The mission of the international nonprofit organization is to reduce the burden of fire on the quality of life by advocating scientifically based consensus codes and standards, research, and education for fire and related safety issues. The Association publishes a wide variety of educational and safety materials, including the National Fire Codes, and is developer of the Risk Watch comprehensive injury prevention curriculum and the Learn Not to Burn fire safety curriculum. NFPA headquarters is in Quincy, Massachusetts, USA. Visit the Public Affairs Media Access page on NFPA's website at <http://www.nfpa.org>.

NEW BOSTON FIRE INSPECTOR VACANCY

The Town of New Boston is soliciting applications for the position of part-time Fire Inspector. This position is responsible for performing inspections as required by State and local fire codes, conducting fire related plan/code review for all building applications except single and two-family dwellings and their accessory uses, and for fire investigation. The Fire Inspector works under the supervision of the Board of Fire Wards, performs general duties for the fire department/station, and may be asked to help with fire training. The successful candidate will have a BS in related engineering field and two years construction industry experience, or a H.S. Diploma or GED and five years experience in fire inspection; a minimum of 5 years experience in fire origin and cause determination desired OR any equivalent combination of education and experience which demonstrates possession of the required knowledge, skills, and abilities for the position. A 16-hr/wk. position. Hourly pay rate is \$15. Interested applicants should send a resume and cover letter to the following address by November 6, 1998: Burton Reynolds, Town Administrator, Town of New Boston, PO Box 250, New Boston, NH 03070. Tel: (603) 487-5504.



NH FOREST PROTECTION BUREAU

News & Notes



- 1) Twenty communities have requested \$265,000.00 from Phase I of the ice storm grants - none of this is for fire equipment BUT these 20 communities are eligible for the fire equipment money.
- 2) The Forest Protection Bureau has ordered \$120,000.00 of wildland suppression equipment to refurbish our fire caches from funds received through the ice storm grants.
- 3) The Forest Protection Bureau is working to set up training courses for firefighters in basic forest fire, chainsaws, pumps, wildland/urban interface and Class A foam. The Bureau plans to pay for the instructors and student materials for these courses from the ice storm monies. These training courses will be advertised once they are scheduled.
- 4) North Country RC&D (Rick DeMark 536-2146) is looking for potential candidates to work through Americorps programs to assist communities 1) identify and develop rural water supplies; 2) conduct multi town educational efforts on the threat of wildland/urban interface fires and 3) assess the communities' vulnerability to natural disasters.
- 5) The Division wishes to thank all of the firefighters and fire departments that supported the fire crews that went to Florida, Texas and Minnesota. Your efforts, sacrifices and professional, positive impacts on these affected states are greatly appreciated.
- 6) The communities of Center Harbor, Hopkinton, Hooksett, Loudon and Pembroke each sent wildland fire vehicles to Texas this summer - A first for New Hampshire! We are working with these communities to evaluate the process. If this was a positive experience for all (we know the firefighters like it), we will let all fire departments know what is expected to be on the "Call List."
- 7) Current forest fire statistics as of October 8, 1998: 365 fires reported for 310 acres burned. We've had quite a few injuries reported to us this year. Please remember "Safety is Everyone's Responsibility" - no tree or building is worth a person's life.

USFA PROVIDES \$225,000 IN ARSON PREVENTION GRANTS

Washington—The United States Fire Administration (USFA) has provided \$225,000 in Arson Prevention Grants to 14 cities. USFA, part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), distributed the grants as part of the President's National Arson Prevention Initiative (NAPI). The funding will help build community-based coalitions and combat arson at the grassroots level.

The following cities each received \$15,000: Baltimore, MD; Burlington, VT; Clark county/Las Vegas, NV; Danville, IL; Duluth, MN; Houston, TX; Lynn, MA; Milwaukee, WI; New Orleans, LA; New York city, NY; Portland, OR; Sacramento, CA; and Youngstown, OH. The City of Orlando, FL, along with Orange and Osceola Counties will be setting up a regional coalition and is receiving \$30,000. This regional alliance will offer services to 15 cities and an estimated population of 9,540,000.

Each community will target a specific issue. Most communities have decided to confront juvenile firesetting, one of the most under-publicized but costly crimes committed by America's youth.

"More than 50 percent of arson fires are started by juveniles under the age of 18," said USFA Administrator, Carrye Brown. "Nationally, juveniles start 225,000 fires each year—arson fires that kill more than 500 people and destroy some \$3 billion worth of property."

In addition to juvenile firesetting, other choices for using the grants include starting church watch programs, boarding-up or demolishing vacant and abandoned buildings, developing stricter code enforcement and promoting arson awareness programs.

More information about this program is available from the National Arson Prevention Clearinghouse at 1-888-603-3100 or via the USFA web site at www.usfa.fema.gov/napi



NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY PROGRAMS



1998-1999 DIRECT DELIVERY PROGRAM

Course Information Sheet

Basic Life Support and Haz-Mat Response (BLS)

Train-the-Trainer

This course will emphasize critical concerns for emergency responders at hazardous materials incidents. Elements of the course include safety issues for emergency medical service — hazardous materials response, management of contaminated victims requiring emergency medical assistance, decontamination and treatment protocols of a basic life support nature, transportation and receiving facilities. The course will assist the student in understanding and complying with federal regulations and national recommendations concerning emergency medical response to hazardous materials incidents.

DATE: November 14 and 15, 1998

TIME: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Both Days)

LOCATION: New Hampshire Fire Academy
222 Sheep Davis Road, Route 106
Concord, N.H. 03301

CLASS SIZE: 30 Students

COST: \$20.00 per student (please make checks payable to NHFST)

WHO SHOULD ATTEND? Fire and emergency medical personnel who have responsibility for managing basic life support (operations level) emergency medical care at hazardous materials incidents.

HOW TO APPLY: Complete the attached New Hampshire Fire Academy registration form and return with payment to:

NEW HAMPSHIRE FIRE ACADEMY
DIVISION OF FIRE STANDARDS AND TRAINING
10 HAZEN DRIVE
CONCORD, N.H. 03305

After The Fire! Returning To Normal; New Edition Now Available

Emmitsburg, Md. August 13, 1998 — The United States Fire Administration (USFA), part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), has published a new edition of After the Fire! Returning to Normal.

Written as a guide to assist persons recovering from a fire, After the Fire! Returning to Normal includes information for both immediate and future use. There is material to help fire victims deal with the first 24 hours after a fire, insurance issues, property value, and replacement of important documents and records.

"When fire strikes, lives are suddenly turned around. Often, the hardest part is knowing where to begin and who to contact," said USFA Administrator Carrye B. Brown "We have updated this important booklet to help those facing a fire's aftermath."

Copies of After the Fire! Returning to Normal are available free of charge by writing to:

United States Fire Administration
Publications
16825 South Seton Avenue
Emmitsburg, Md. 21727

This publication can also be ordered by calling USFA's Automated Publications Line @ (301) 447-1660. To order it via the Internet, visit the publications' section of USFA on the World Wide Web @ <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/>

NVFC Opposes NFPA 1200 Decision

On July 17, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standards Council issued a decision on the NFPA 1200 committee project, which was charged with creating deployment standards for the fire service. Despite opposition from the NVFC and several other fire service organizations, the Standards Council decided to create two separate committees, one to establish deployment standards for career fire service personnel and the other to establish standards for the volunteer fire service. The NVFC is appealing this decision to the Standards Council and the NFPA Board of Directors.

The Standards Council decision comes after several years of debate on this issue. The original NFPA 1200 committee was created in 1995. When that committee was unable to reach agreement on the establishment of standards, the Standards Council decided to hold a public forum on the issue. In January 1998, as a result of this forum, the Standards Council created a Task Group to help resolve the impasse. This Task Group consisted of representatives from the NVFC, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Firefighters, and the International City/County Management Association. This Task Group was to gather information, make recommendations, and provide guidance as to how the project might proceed.

From the report of this Task Force, the Standards Council arrived at its decision to create two separate deployment standards, even though 3 of the 4 groups were opposed to such a decision.

The NVFC has opposed creating nationwide deployment standards since the idea's inception. It is the position of the NVFC that deployment standards should be guided locally, by those who are able to assess the capabilities and the needs of the community. However, if a national deployment standard must be created, the NVFC believes that the standards should provide a process for the locality to evaluate its level of service, not be based on career vs. Volunteer. Finally, the NVFC also believes that the current decision by the Standards Council does not represent the best interests of the fire service. Personnel from all levels of the fire service, from national organizations to management to grassroots firefighters, have opposed this delineation.

The NVFC is asking that its members write to the Standards Council and to the NFPA Board of Directors stating their opposition to this decision. Both can be contacted at: National Fire Protection Association, One Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02269-9101. Please contact NFPA as soon as possible, as this issue will be considered at their November annual meeting.

NEWS FROM CPSC

CPSC Issues Warning to hurricane victims to prevent CO poisonings, electrocutions, explosions and fires.

Washington, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is warning hurricane victims that gasoline-powered generators should not be used indoors, because of the risk of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. Also, all gas control valves, electric circuit breakers, ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs), and fuses that have been under water must be replaced to avoid electrocutions, explosions and fires.

CPSC Chairman Ann Brown said, "If people use gasoline-powered generators indoors, they could die from CO poisoning. Opening doors windows or operating fans does not guarantee safety."

CO poisoning from the use of fuel-burning appliances kills more than 200 people each year and sends about 10,000 to hospital emergency rooms for treatment.

CO is a colorless, odorless gas produced by burning any fuel. The initial symptoms of CO poisoning are similar to the flu, and include dizziness, fatigue, headache, nausea and irregular breathing. Exposure to high levels of CO can cause death.

"CPSC recommends that consumers use gasoline-powered generators outdoors and away from air intakes to prevent CO poisoning," Brown said. "And every home should have at least one CO detector that meets the requirements of the most recent Underwriters Laboratories standard 2034 or the requirements of the IAS 6-96 standard."

Replacing Flood-Damaged Gas Control Valves, Electric Circuit Breakers, GFCIs and Fuses

Even if these safety devices appear to function after being submerged in a flood, they are unfit for continued use and cannot be repaired. They may eventually fail, causing electrocutions, explosions or fires. Other parts of gas and electric appliances that have been submerged such as fans, motors, electric circuits, and venting systems should be evaluated by a qualified technician for continued safe operation. Entire appliances may need to be replaced.

Gas control valves on furnaces, water heaters, and other gas appliances that have been under water must be replaced. Silt and corrosion from flood water can damage internal components of control valves and prevent proper operation. Gas can leak and result in an explosion or fire. Gas control valves that have been under water cannot be salvaged; they must be replaced.

Electric circuit breakers, GFCIs, and fuses that have been submerged must also be replaced because water and silt inside the devices prevent them from performing properly as safety devices. Flood water and silt trapped inside circuit breakers or switches can cause electrical shorting or mechanical malfunctions. The only safe action is to discard and replace circuit breakers, GFCIs, and fuses that have been under water.

CPSC also recommends that consumers replace smoke detectors and CO detectors that have been submerged.

PUBLICATION UPDATE

For Group II Members

(Police Officers and Firefighters)

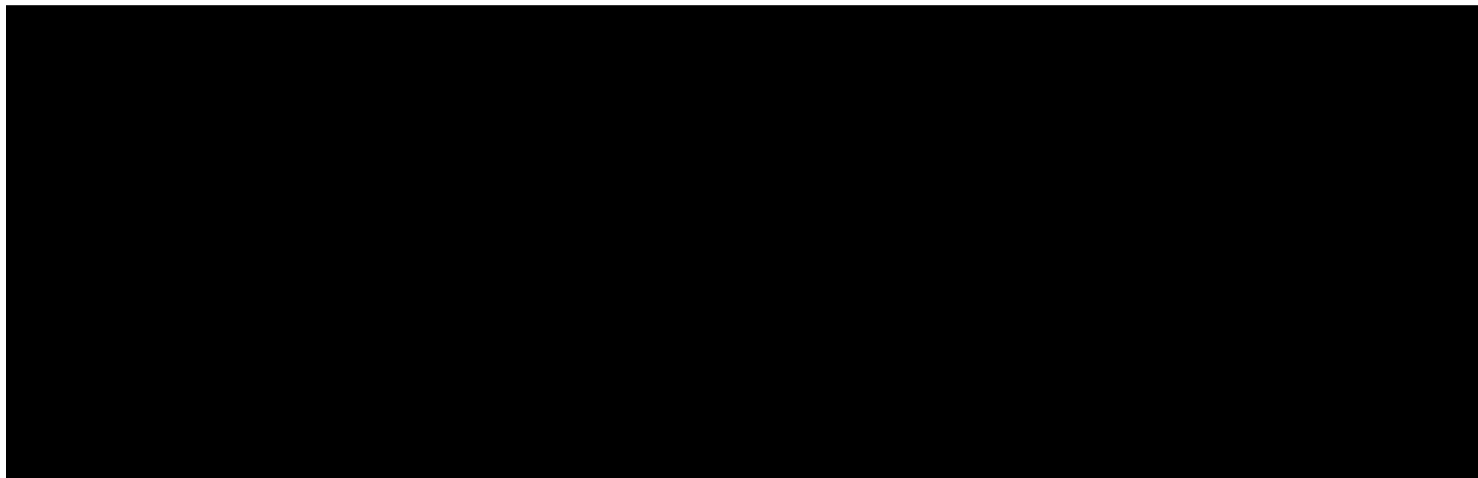
The following publications have been revised. Please remember that the summary pamphlets are intended to be distributed to any new NHRS members and to individuals who are seeking general information; the booklets should be provided to anyone who is seeking more detailed information.

Group II Summary of Benefits pamphlet 8/98

Group II Benefits booklet 8/98

Group II Service Retirement Planning Guide 7/98

The Group II Service Retirement Planning Guide is a new publication designed for Group II members. It is intended to provide basic guidelines and general information about your Group II service retirement benefit. To order NHRS publications, please call the Public Information Office at (603) 271-3351 x252.



1964 - 75 Maxim Aerial Ladder Mounted on "64" International Chassis Model 2000. In good running order. Ladder certified less than one year ago.

Bids may be submitted to the selectman's office, Town Hall, One Library Street, Georgetown, MA. 01833, no later than November 30, 1998. Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked "Fire Department Equipment Bid".

Equipment may be viewed at the Central Fire Station, 47 Central Street, Georgetown, MA. (978) 352-5757.

Merrimack, NH Fire Chief

The Town of Merrimack, NH is a progressive southern New Hampshire community with a population of 25,000 that is seeking a replacement for a retiring Fire chief (retiring June 30, 1999). The Fire Department handles all fire services, Emergency Medical Services, Hazardous material and Emergency Management events. The Fire Department consists of 80 personnel (40 full-time members, 40 part-time and call members) operating out of 4 stations, and includes Ambulance paramedics, a Fire Marshal (Inspector) and office staff, with an annual budget of \$2.6 million. Firefighters and Para-

medics are unionized under the IAFF and Supervisory personnel are unionized under AFSCME. Candidates must have a BA/BS in Fire Science or Public Management, 10 years experience in fire service with at least 5 years in a high level supervisory position, a graduate of (or currently attending) the Executive Fire Officers School at the National Fire Academy. Salary Range \$58,900 - \$65,000. Interested applicants should send resume and letter of interest to Chuck Miller, Executive Secretary, Town of Merrimack, PO Box 940, Merrimack, NH 03054 (603) 423-8505 by January 31, 1999. EOE.

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions to The Fire Service News are encouraged. For consideration, articles and photographs should be of interest to New Hampshire firefighters and the greater fire service community. Black & White photographs provide the best clarity. Direct submissions, with appropriate publication releases, to:

Editor
The Fire Service News
10 Hazen Drive
Concord, New Hampshire 03305

SUBSCRIPTIONS: The Fire Service News, a service of the New Hampshire Division of Fire Standards & Training, is a bi-monthly fire service newsletter directed to the New Hampshire fire service community. Free subscriptions to The Fire Service News are available to N.H. Firefighters who complete and return the survey found on page 2 of this newsletter. Personal subscriptions for all others are available at the subscription rate of \$5.00 per year (six issues) mailed to U.S. address.

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